

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Examiner To indicated that independent claim 10 and dependent claims 11-15 would be allowable if the claims were amended to comply with the formal requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicants by the instant amendment have amended claim 10 and claim 11 so as to provide proper antecedent basis. It is submitted that claims 10-15 are now in condition for allowance.

In addition to the foregoing, Applicants have amended independent claim 16 to define over the cited prior art document, European Publication No. EP-1125826. Independent claim 16 as amended now sets forth that the apparatus for damage limitation in the event of an onset frontal collision comprises means for generating a first signal for signalling an imminent collision and triggering steerable front wheels to turn inward in opposite directions. Claim 16 further sets forth first means for sensing that no collision has taken place within a certain time after the first signal and second means for generating a second signal for signalling that a collision has actually occurred. The claim further sets forth that at least one of the steerable wheels is moved back to the initial position upon a signal from either the first means or the second means. EP-1125826 fails to teach, disclose, suggest, or render obvious the details of the apparatus for generating the first and second signals as now claimed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 and dependent claims 17 and 18 patentably define over the prior art and the early issuance of a formal notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Gregory P. LaPointe #28395/  
Gregory P. LaPointe  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No.: 28,395

Telephone: 203-777-6628  
Telefax: 203-865-0297

Date: March 20, 2009